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Title:

Speech at the opening of the Allegro Room, Quelltaler House

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, AT THE OPENING OF THE ALLEGRO ROOM,
QUELLTALER HOUSE.

9/11/71.

MR. McDOUGAL, MR. KEEN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME HERE TODAY TO OPEN THE ARKABA'S ALLEGRO ROOM. DESIGNED, AS IT IS AS A COMBINED CONVENTION AND DINING AREA IN THE HEART OF ADELAIDE IT IS A VALUABLE SUPPLEMENT TO EXISTING FACILITIES AND WILL I'M SURE PROVE TO BE BOTH POPULAR AND PROFITABLE. IT ILLUSTRATES, TOO, JUST HOW RAPIDLY THIS AREA OF THE CITY IS EVOLVING. AND I'M PLEASED TO SAY THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT IS PLAYING A VERY SIGNIFICANT PART IN THIS DEVELOPMENT - CONSERVING THE A.N.Z. BANK JUST ACROSS THE WAY AND CONSTRUCTING THE FESTIVAL HALL DOWN THE ROAD. IN THEIR DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS BOTH ARE LIKELY TO PROVE GOOD SOURCES OF BUSINESS FOR YOU AND YOUR FELLOW RESTAURATEURS IN THE FUTURE. AND THE TWO OF THEM ARE TYPICAL OF THE DUAL ATTRACTIONS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES WILL MAKE ADELAIDE ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S TOURIST MECCAS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE APPEAL OF HISTORIC ADELAIDE IS STILL UNDER-RATED BY MANY SOUTH AUSTRALIANS. BUT THE GRACE AND BEAUTY OF MANY OF OUR BUILDINGS NOT ONLY MAKE UP A HERITAGE OF WHICH WE CAN BE JUSTLY PROUD, THEY PROVIDE A MAJOR SELLING POINT TO POTENTIAL VISITORS.

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THE ORGANISERS OF THE RECENT CAMPAIGN OVER THE A.N.Z. BANK RIGHTLY COMMENTED THAT, WERE IT IN VENICE OR PARIS IT WOULD ATTRACT GREAT INTEREST. THIS IS TRUE NOT ONLY OF THE BANK, THERE ARE MANY OTHER BUILDINGS IN THE CITY - THE TOWN HALL AND THE TREASURY BUILDING TO NAME JUST TWO - WHICH ARE EQUALLY SPLENDID. AND, ON A LESSER SCALE, QUELLTALER HOUSE, IS ANOTHER INSTANCE OF THE ARCHITECTURAL RICHES ABOUT US. OUR HISTORY IS COMPARATIVELY SHORT BUT IT DOES NOT FOLLOW THAT WE SHOULD SUFFER FEELINGS OF INFERIORITY AS A RESULT. IT'S NO OVER-STATEMENT TO SAY THAT ADELAIDE CONTAINS MANY BUILDINGS WHICH SHOULD BE REGARDED AS NATIONAL TREASURES (AND TREATED ACCORDINGLY) AND THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE PREPARED TO TRAVEL LONG DISTANCES TO COME HERE FOR A HOLIDAY TO ENJOY THEM WITH US. OUR OTHER, DISTINCTIVE, APPEAL IS OF COURSE AS A FESTIVAL CITY AND THE COMPLEX NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY THE TORRENS WILL PROVIDE A FITTING BACKDROP FOR FESTIVAL ATTRACTIONS. AND WHEN COMPLETED IT WILL BE - IN ITS WAY - AS MUCH A CENTRE OF INTEREST AND AS ATTRACTIVE A BUILDING AS THOSE COMPLETED IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

VIEWED FROM A PURELY AESTHETIC STANDPOINT DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS THESE HAVE THEIR OWN IMPERATIVE. BUT GOVERNMENTS ARE ELECTED TO BE CONCERNED MORE ABOUT BREAD THAN CIRCUSES AND WE HAVE VERY PRACTICAL GROUNDS FOR EMBARKING ON SUCH SCHEMES.

THEY NOT ONLY MAKE LIFE PLEASANTER FOR OUR OWN CITIZENS BUT AS PART OF AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TOURIST DEVELOPMENT THEY ARE MONEY SPINNERS AND JOB SPINNERS WITH THE BENEFITS CAPABLE OF BEING FELT QUICKLY AND THROUGHOUT THE ECONOMY.

YOU, SIR, WILL BE WELL AWARE OF JUST HOW TANGIBLE IN TERMS OF DOLLARS AND CENTS THESE BENEFITS CAN BE. BY GOING AHEAD WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ALLEGRO ROOM YOU ARE NOT ONLY PUTTING YOURSELVES IN A POSITION TO GAIN SOME OF THESE BENEFITS YOU ARE MAKING A SIGNIFICANT ADDITION TO THE FACILITIES THAT BRING THEM ABOUT.

IT GIVES ME VERY MUCH PLEASURE TO NOW DECLARE THE ALLEGRO ROOM OPEN.

THANK YOU.